

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29 were pending, with Claims 1, 10, and 19 being independent. Claims 4, 13, 27, and 29 are currently cancelled. Therefore, Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-26, and 28 are currently pending.

The specification stand objected to because the labeling in the drawings and the corresponding description were allegedly unclear in reference to the "proxying components", "server component", and "agent component". Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,173,399 to Gilbrech.

Objection to the Specification

The specification has been amended, as stated above, to clearly point out that the proxying components 9 include the server component 12 and the agent component 14. Figure 1 has been amended to show this feature, and the description in relation to this feature in Fig. 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim 1

The amended Claim 1 is patentable over Gilbrech because the cited reference fails to anticipate each and every feature as stated in Claim 1. For example, Gilbrech does not teach a server as being the second component. Instead, as stated in the Office Action, the second component is a router (Gilbrech Col. 8, lines 29-31, 52-55, and Figs. 2 and 5). Also, the VPN Unit

component in Gilbrech does not have a server component according to the Office Action for Claim 1. The Office Action is also referring to the VPN Unit in Gilbrech as being the first component, and not the second component. For this reason alone, Gilbrech does not anticipate Claim 1.

Furthermore, Claim 1 teaches "establishing a connection from a first network component to a second network component." This is not new matter and is explained in the application on page 3, first paragraph, and page 6, lines 1-4. For example, the disclosure teaches "the agent component 14 previously established a persistent physical connection to the server component 12," and "the directional arrows in FIG. 1 indicate the direction in which network connections in the network configuration are initiated in order to support a logical connection from the client 16 to any one of the devices 22a-N" (page 3, 1st paragraph; page 4, 1st paragraph). Gilbrech is silent in teaching or suggesting this feature.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection to Claim 1 be withdrawn, and Claim 1 be placed in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-3, 5-9

Claims 2-3, 5-9 are patentable because they depend on an allowable base claim, Claim 1. These claims also are patentable for reciting allowable subject matter in their own right. For example, Claim 5 recites the first network component and the second network component having "a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at each of the components supporting the connection remains active." This feature is supported in the disclosure in that "the agent component 14 connects to the server component 12 and maintains a long-standing (persistent) connection with the server component 12 that can be used for subsequent data exchange" (page 6, 1st paragraph). Gilbrech is silent on

teaching or suggesting "establishing a connection from a first network component to a second network component" in Claim 1 in combination with this feature from Claim 5. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejections to Claims 2-3, 5-9, and ask that those claims be placed in condition for allowance.

Claims 10, 19

Claims 10 and 19 are patentable because these claims recite subject matter that is similar to Claim 1, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above with respect to Claim 1.

The Office Action uses similar arguments in Claim 10 as stated in Claim 1, in which the VPN Unit is referred to as the first network component (i.e., the agent, not the server), and the second network component is referred to as the router (i.e., not the server) (pages 3 and 6 of Office Action when referring to Figures 2 and 5 of Gilbrech). However, the Office Action refers to these same items for the same figures differently in forming arguments for Claim 19 (page 7 of Office Action). For example, the Office Action refers to the VPN Unit as the server component and the router as the agent. Because Claims 1, 10, and 19 are all claiming similar items in the same way, the Office Action is using conflicting arguments in forming the rejections to these claims.

Moreover, Gilbrech still fails to anticipate the feature recited in Claims 1, 10, and 19 of "establishing a connection from a first network component to a second network component," as described above.

For at least these reasons, the Applicants request that Claims 10 and 19 be put in condition for allowance.

Claims 11-12, 14-18, 20-26, 28

Claims 11-12, 14-18, 20-26, 28 are allowable for depending on an allowable base claim, Claim 10 or 19. Accordingly, these claims are requested to be placed in condition for allowance.

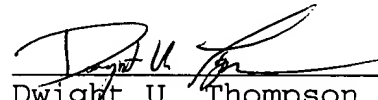
CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks herein, Applicants believe that Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14-26, and 28 are in condition for allowance and ask that those pending claims be allowed. The foregoing comments made with respect to the positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, Applicants' arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other valid reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 09/29/04


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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of the drawings includes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet of Fig. 1.

Figure 1 has been amended to overcome the objection in the Office Action by clearly pointing out that Proxying Components 9 include the Server Component 12 and the Agent Component 14.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 pages)

Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (1 pages)

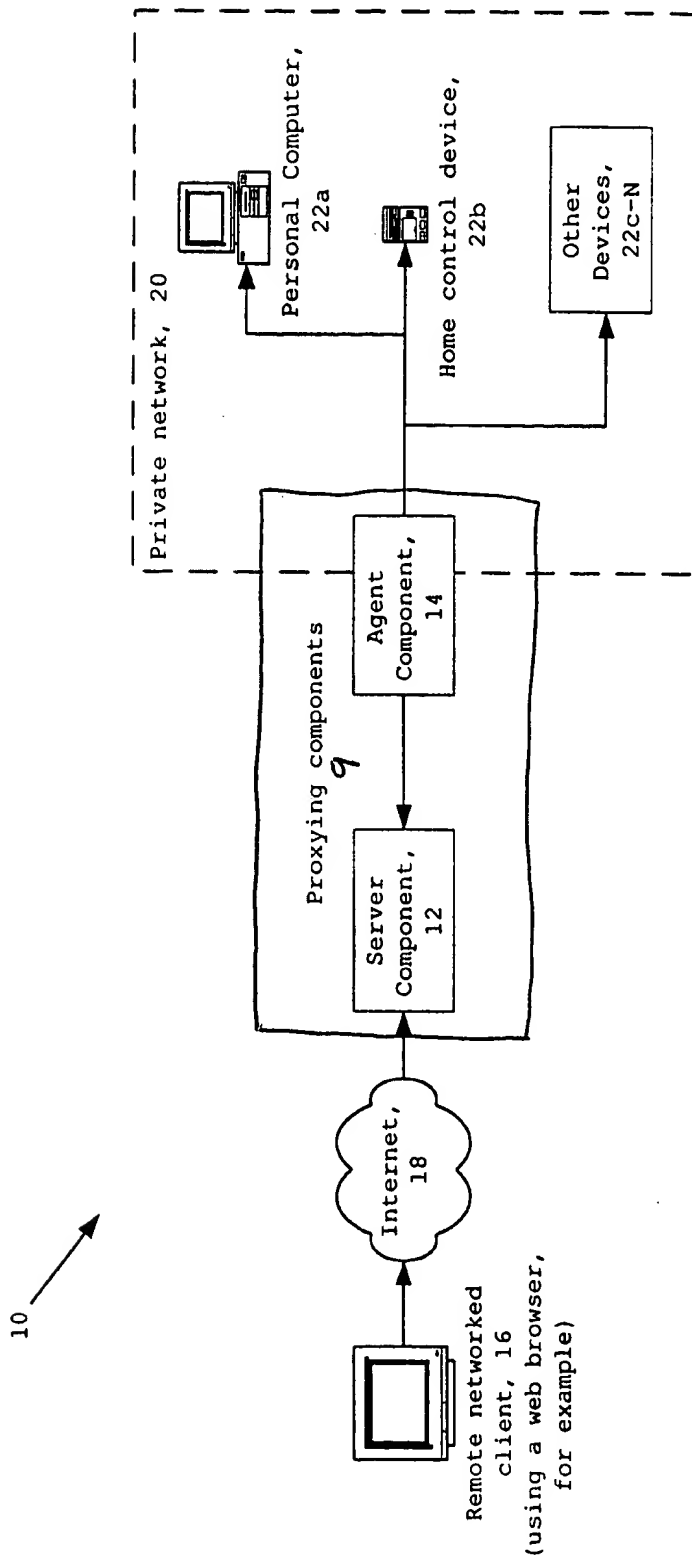


FIG. 1